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Sep 4th 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC

I'm a consumer whose local Internet Service Provider (Sonic.net) uses unbundled copper and inter-city fiber transport elements (UNEs). I get both my residential internet service -and- residential landline phone service from Sonic.

I'm extremely happy with Sonic and I believe competition in this area is crucial. Competition allowed me to thankfully change from an much pricier "big name" provider whose privacy/security commitment was non-existent and whose support/service was far below par. When I discovered my emails were not secure, and that every message I sent was followed by spam trying to sell me items related to the content of the message, I tried getting help but their attitude was "too bad, that's just the way it is." They were also constantly raising rates but providing nothing better. Fed up, and worried that there were no affordable options, I was thrilled to find Sonic -- a local provider committed to broadband quality, the highest standards of security/privacy, and excellent customer service, all at a reasonable price. The fact that I can have a landline phone again, plus send and receive faxes from within my dashboard, all inclusive in my service, is just icing on the cake. Despite faxing seeming antiquated, it's the only way to transmit health documents under HIIPA regulations, so I'm finally also able to fax records to my doctors easily.

Competition makes this happen. And a local provider is a godsend when I have a question about router ports or adding a device such as a nanny cam to my network properly so my security isn't compromised.

My household relies on the local quality services Sonic provides. We watch streaming television, operate smart home devices, make reliable landline phonecalls, and send/receive faxes when needed, for a price we can afford. My sister, by comparison, pays FIVE TIMES what I pay. I couldn't pay that. She also doesn't get a landline, she doesn't get faxing, and the support/service she receives is abysmal. Sonic recently became available in her area so she'll be making the move shortly. Hallelujah I say!

PLEASE KEEP COMPETITION ALIVE. It's the only thing that keeps large providers from consolidating into price-fixing monopolies. It's also the only thing that keeps them honest and forces

them to provide actual service -- sink or swim. Please don't allow the 1996 Telecommunications Act to be watered down. A local, accessible and quality-oriented provider, with an incentive to provide excellent service at an affordable price, is crucial to my family, and I know many others.

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